

SOVIET LEADERS BUSIEST MEN IN RUSSIA, ASSERTS CAPT. LYNCH; FRIENDLINESS OF THE PEOPLE COMPENSATES FOR DIFFICULTIES

GOVERNMENT CHIEFS UNABLE TO OBTAIN LODGING FOR GUESTS

Very System of Communistic Rule Has Destroyed the Social and Business Life of Russia—Krasin Indefatigable, But He Accomplishes Nothing Because "It Would Require Too Many Napoleons to Achieve Even Most Meager Results"

This is the third in a series of articles on Russian internal conditions by Captain Arthur Lynch, former member of the British Parliament, who has just returned from a two months' visit in Russia.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—In order to make my narrative clearer, I will again anticipate a little and say that these experiments of mine, though extraordinary, were yet quite in keeping with the general dislocation of social life in Moscow. As one of the professors of the university subsequently told me, there was no communication of one section of the population with another. There were no newspapers except two or three published by the government, and less for the purpose of giving news of any kind than of serving the national propaganda.

It happened, therefore, that after I had been in Moscow a fortnight this same professor, who had charge of the arrangements for my conferences at the university, wrote me a letter addressed to my house in London, asking me as to what language I proposed to speak in. At the time of his writing this letter, which I received after my return from Russia, I was within a stone's throw of his office.

All this seems somewhat difficult to understand for us so familiar with newspapers recording with delightful indiscretion the doings of large and small, but in Moscow there were not only no newspapers, but apparently

the art of letter writing had fallen into disuse. Telephones there were, and these were more widely distributed, relatively, than in London, but for the greater part of the time the telephone refused to work. The only way, therefore, to communicate with a man was to call at his house. If he happened to be absent, however, there was no servant to whom a message could be given, not a "visage of wood," to wit, the door, and had no other recourse but to turn on one's heel and go away.

NORMAL LIFE PARALYZED. These little indications of the paralysis of normal life may serve to explain why, having fallen by accident into the Savoy Hotel, I remained there during the whole time of my stay, because it was really beyond the power of the government to find me a better place.

Next day I rose betimes, shaved in cold water and without the aid of a mirror, then set out to keep an appointment with Krasin.

I should explain that before going to Russia I had asked advice of one or two experts. Experts are always terrible people, for when they go wrong they are wrong with a vengeance.

Wells had written me a short note, advising me to bring "Kestlings" and saying that the bread was "awful." In both these points he was right. But another expert had told me to bring no money into Moscow, as nothing could be bought with money. This expert was very wrong, although what he said had been true a few months previously.

It was just about the time of my entry into the city that the regulation had been adopted allowing trading in the city, and shops began to break out here and there. Following the peddling of lace and the setting up of a stall for bootlaces, appeared women scattered here and there through the city, each standing in the gutter, holding a plate on which were exhibited some ten slices of bread. These had a ready sale among passers-by who had money sufficient to buy it. A slice of bread could be had for about five hundred dollars—on the old

M. TCHITCHERIN



TCHITCHERIN

As Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Republic, Tchitcherin finds no time for any recreation and is probably one of the most overworked of all the Russian officials.

scale; or about two cents of present money.

To continue the theme of the shops for a moment, every new day saw a fresh sign of enterprise, and one fine morning shortly after this trade had been permitted, a Paris mode shop suddenly blazed out, brilliant with cosmetics, perfumes and face-paints. There was a run on this, and many women who could hardly scrape enough money to buy bread found sufficient to buy perfumes.

A sensational opening was that of a shop for children's toys. This shop possessed an unusually large window, and the sudden appearance of the dazzling display of dolls, teddy bears, pop guns and the like caused a large crowd to assemble.

EATING HOUSES APPEAR.

Then there began to appear little eating houses, while those who knew their way about could pilot one to restaurants where a glass of dubious wine could be obtained, or a bottle of a curious kind of home-made beer, which reminded me of the Kaffir beer in South Africa.

Now all these things could be obtained for money, but acting on the advice of my expert, I had neglected to bring in any Russian money; and as my friends were out when I knocked at their door, I wandered about the streets of Moscow for a time, very hungry and gazing with longing eyes at apple stalls, or perhaps at an underground little hole marked "restaurant."

I would not for worlds have missed these curious little experiences, for they enabled me to understand better the actual conditions of the city. Had the message announcing my arrival been received and had I been really met

by the committee appointed, and had been driven off in a car to a well-appointed house, and had found there everything prepared for a "guest of state," as I was called, I should have formed a false impression of the place.

Something of the sort had happened, I imagine, to other official visitors.

Later in the day my friends called for me and took me to see Krasin. I had to depend on these friends, for, as usual, it required a counter-sign to pass the inevitable Tartar soldier standing in the doorway with his fixed bayonet, to say nothing of the Tartar soldiers on each landing with their fixed bayonets.

On the way to Krasin's office we passed a gate of the outer Kremlin, and on the face of the high wall we saw the famous declaration of the Soviet, printed in conspicuous letters: "Religion is the Opium of the People."

AT KRASSIN'S OFFICE.

A great deal has been written about this, and it has been held up as evidence of the manner in which the Bolsheviks persecuted religion. These stories, like so many that I heard in London, seemed ridiculous in Moscow.

Directly opposite this sign stands one of the curious little gilded churches, as of a toy house built round a shrine, and there a service was being continually held by a pope in glittering tiara, and there the faithful kept bobbing in and bobbing out and making the sign of the cross every few seconds. I stopped and looked in for a moment or two, and a woman came up to me and, pointing to the apothecary about opium, said: "There you are! These people think it a crime to worship God." The stolid Tartar soldier with his

fixed bayonet heard her, but he seemed indifferent.

We arrived at last at Krasin's office, which was in what might be called the business center of Moscow. It may once have been the Wall Street of the capital, but in the busy time of the day it looked like a Wall Street at night, into which many bombs had fallen. What had once been Lloyd's Bank stood there dreary and deserted, with only the walls intact, while adjacent was a deserted tract of land where Lloyd's, before the revolution, had laid the foundation of another palatial building.

Krasin's own office looked like a regular beehive of industry. Story after story of clerks, all working desperately hard, seemed to indicate great business, but the actual outcome in the sense of definite trade, and especially of returns, was very small.

Again, in digression, I ought to say that nothing is further from the mark than the tales which I had heard of the great Soviet chiefs leading sybaritic lives in palaces, while the unfortunate population was toiling to death in their support.

OFFICIALS WORK HARD.

The population of Moscow really toils very little, except those in government offices, for there is no adequate employment to be had, but, on the other hand, most of the great Soviet chiefs were working like madmen. That is, in fact, one of the great faults of their system. The organization has so broken down that these great statesmen had to look to details which an ordinary clerk or intelligent office boy could have accounted for.

Tchitcherin, the minister of foreign affairs, works all night as well as the greater part of the day. I had read before I left London that Tchitcherin had considered some dispatch of great importance, because he had had a conference about it at 2 o'clock in the morning. Here again, nothing is so misleading as partial views of Russia. The simple fact is that Tchitcherin's favorite hours for giving any interview begin about midnight.

These late hours and the hard work of the heads of government do not imply efficiency, but rather the reverse. The very system of communistic rule has destroyed in the social and business life the thousand and one little connections and regulators and wheel-work, which, in the ordinary way in civilized ordinary life are taken for granted and unnoticed, but of which the importance becomes manifest when they are missing.

Some of the chiefs of the government are men of great energy, mental and physical; serious, hard working men, some of them highly educated; but with the breakdown of the system that has been produced it would require so many Napoleons

LEONID KRASSIN

A highly trained electrical engineer, Krasin, by a strange twist of fate, has become one of Russia's foremost economists and recently was sent to England to effect a trade agreement with Great Britain.



LEONID KRASSIN.

to achieve even the most meagre results.

I found this in my little affair of discovering an apartment. When I met Krasin he was greatly concerned at the plight in which I had found myself, and he explained that neither from London nor Riga had the authorities sent any intimation of my coming. If they had done so all would have been in order. Yes, no doubt—except that this is also true, that such negligences were not extraordinary, but were rather part and parcel of the general fall of the machine.

At a later period, while in Krasin, I wished to let one of the professors know that I would be returning to Moscow in a day or two, as I desired to save time in the work which appeared to be almost beyond their powers of arranging for my lectures. This professor was the head of a small department of State. When I wished to pay for the telegram I was told that they could not think of charging me, and that my message would be sent as a State telegram. I was quite pleased at the moment, but I afterwards discovered that the telegram never arrived at its destination. In such cases it never seemed safe to probe the mystery as to where the stoppage took place. At any rate no inquiry was ever made.

I had seen Krasin only a few weeks before in London, and when I saw him again in Moscow I was quite pained to see how much older looking he had become in the interval. Let me describe Krasin, for a moment, as a fair type of the men who are trying to run Russia under impossible conditions.

In the first place, it is necessary to divest one's mind of the stories

one sees printed—particularly in certain sections of the English press—to the discredit of the Bolsheviks. I have already spoken with sufficient candor of the defects of their system, and I shall continue to point out many causes of administrative breakdown, so that evidently I hold no brief for the Soviets; but it is my duty to be fair. I say, therefore, that nothing is more absurd than the description of the blood-thirsty Commissars shooting people right and left, for the pleasure of exercising tyranny, while at the same time living in riotous indulgence or luxurious ease.

SCHEMES COME TO NOTHING.

Krasin looked like a man not only overworked but harassed and worried almost to death. He was at that time in constant negotiation with various groups of concession-hunters. The most important of these was represented by an English group, and the concession they sought for was one of enormous value. The negotiations, which had run over a great number of points, had been brought to such a condition that it seemed that only the respective signatures were required in order to complete matters. As a sequel, however, all these negotiations came to nothing. The head of the English group suggested that the signing of the document should take place in London, but as soon as he got over the border his attitude changed, and he reproached the Russian government with all sorts of shortcomings and crimes, ranging from lack of security to the misdeeds of the secret police.

This was the kind of business with which poor Krasin had continually to contend. He was always working in the most conscientious

TOY SHOP IS OPENED WITH RUSH

Women Stand in Out-
ters of Moscow and
Sell Bread for \$360
a Slice, Says English
Writer.

way, over-conscientious, in fact, because he was steaming away like a madman, and displaying great ability and even high business-like qualities in the preparation of schemes, which in the end came to nothing; which, in fact, were destined from the beginning to come to nothing.

Krasin is a Siberian. He looks like a scientist, and he is, in fact, a highly trained electrical engineer. With his tall, well-built figure, his square-cut head, and prominent, well-formed features, the whole mask of the man one of intellect and study, his portrait would not be out of place anywhere in a gallery of distinguished engineers. Here in Moscow he was trying to do the impossible—trying to run a business concern in a community where the essential foundations of business had been intentionally destroyed by the State itself.

However, to come to my lodging! Krasin is a man of driving power, and he soon set the wheels in motion. He detailed the excellent Mr. Shvitski to make my affairs his special care. Shvitski kept the telephone wires hot with his ringings. Messengers were soon hurrying to and fro; consultations were held; the agitation reached other government offices. The power of high dignitaries was invoked, and the mind of the most advanced government in the world was concentrated on the effort of finding me a lodging.

Had all this effort been successful one could have found a gleam of hope; one could have seen the possible lines by which the Soviet Government would rise to higher things; but the fact is that the work was in vain, and, sympathizing with the difficulties of a friendly State, I declared, at length, that I was quite content to stay at the Savoy.

I never regretted this decision, and I never regretted the peculiar circumstances under which I arrived in Moscow, for I got to know the Savoy itself, and all the people in it, and all the servants, and came to appreciate that extraordinary spirit of friendliness and good fellowship which is pervasive in Russia, and which often seemed to me to compensate for every deficiency.

(Other articles by Captain Lynch will follow.)

FREE ALL ORIENTAL PEOPLES, NOT CHINA ALONE, ROY URGES

Disarmament and Peace
Are Impossible So
Long as the Eastern
Races Are Held Under
Dominance, Hindu
Writer Declares.

By BASANTA KOOMAR ROY,
Author of "Rabindranath Tagore
—The Man and His Poetry."

IT is futile to talk of peace on earth and foolish to think of disarmament of nations while the scheming international diplomats are deeply engrossed only in the solution of the problem of the Far East.

The problem of the Far East is not an isolated one. It is inextricably entwined with the problem of the entire Orient. The Oriental problem is one in its relation to the Western world, and the Orient embraces the three continents of Australia, Asia and Africa.

Only a glance at the map of these continents is enough to convince one of the Occidental domination over the Orient. Take the case of Asia alone—a continent that has given to the world great philosophy and great poets, great artists, great scientists, great generals, great statesmen and, above all, the greatest religions of the world—Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Confucianism and Mohammedanism. With the solitary exception of Japan this vast continent is under the iron heels of the nations of Europe, primarily, the English.

THE VASTNESS OF ASIA. In the midst of the diplomatic exchange of honeyed words and seductive felicitations at Washington it may be wise for the peoples and the statesmen of the West to stare the following facts straight in the face: The area of Europe is 3,872,561 square miles, and that of Asia 17,206,000. In other words, Asia is almost as large as North America,

South America and Europe combined. The population of Europe is 464,681,000, and that of Asia 872,522,000. That is to say, the population of Asia is larger than half the population of the world.

It may also be profitable for them to remember that European Russia has an area of 1,867,737 square miles and a population of 131,700,800, and she rules over a territory in Asia extending over 6,294,119 square miles with a population of 30,000,000; that Holland herself is only 12,582 square miles, and her population is 6,831,231, but the area of her Asian empire is 683,000 square miles with a population of about 50,000,000; that France is 207,054 square miles with a population of 39,601,509, but her Asian Kingdoms spread over 256,196 square miles with a population of 17,268,728; that England herself is only 50,874 square miles in area, with a population of 34,000,000, but in Asia alone she rules over a territory of 1,972,455 square miles with a population of 325,016,000. These figures do not include the territories and their population under British mandate in Asia.

It would be treason to humanity to hide the fact that supercilious arrogance and unmitigated audacity characterize the average Occidental in his treatment of the Oriental and have engendered in the hearts of the average Oriental a bitter feeling of resentment, and in many instances of relentless retaliation.

That is why a great many Orientals are feeling exceedingly jubilant over the present unenviable predicament of the nations of Europe.

ORIENTAL VIEWPOINT. "The greater issues of the war," wrote an Oriental during the World War, "the human issues, leave us unmoved. We are unmoved by the slaughter, the losses, the untold sufferings, the wholesale destruction. The reason for this is simple and obvious. Whatever hurts the Occidental helps us. Therefore it pleases us."

"Asia and Europe play the game from opposite sides of the board. The losses of Europe are the gains of Asia. Each killed European is a killed potential enemy." We

EUROPE'S RULE IN ASIA SHOWN BY FIGURES	
AREA	POPULATION
EUROPE — 3,872,561 Sq. Miles	EUROPE — 464,681,000
ASIA — 17,206,000 " " "	ASIA — 872,522,000
EUROPEAN RUSSIA — 1,867,737 Sq. Miles	POPULATION — 131,700,800
HOLLAND — 12,582 Sq. Miles	RULES/ 683,000 Sq. Miles
POPULATION — 6,831,231	IN ASIA/ 50,000,000 Pop.
FRANCE — 207,054 Sq. Miles	RULES/ 256,196 Sq. Miles
POPULATION — 39,601,509	IN ASIA/ 17,268,728 Pop.
ENGLAND — 50,874 Sq. Miles	RULES/ 1,972,455 Sq. Miles
POPULATION — 34,000,000	IN ASIA/ 325,016,000 Pop.

are glad of this war. Whatever the outcome, it will weaken Europe in treasure and blood. It will kill the flower of their fighting men. It will reduce their birth rate.

"Europe will not get over the effects of this conflict in fifty years. Asia will be strong and ready in less than fifty years."

What Asia did to Europe yesterday, Europe is doing to Asia today. With the conquest of Europe Asia sowed the seed of her own counter conquest. And a few moments' searching thought will convince even a nincompoop that in the conquest of Asia for imperialism and commercialism lies latent the germs of the

present destruction and humiliation of Europe.

No class, no race, no nation and no continent can permanently thrive at the cost of another. The destruction of one is bound to result in the destruction of all in the long run.

The great law of adjustment works with uncompromising accuracy. And humanity, after all is one and indivisible—bound by the mystic bond of blood that runs red in all.

It is a healthy sign of the times, however, that China, the largest and the most populous country in Asia is receiving a courteous hearing at

the Washington conference. The plight of China has been a fruitful source of Asian weakness, for 97 per cent of China's territory is still under alien control, Russia controls 43.8 per cent; Great Britain 9.1 per cent; Japan 5.6 per cent, and France 3.4 per cent. Her forts and harbors, her mines and industries are controlled by foreign aggressors.

CHINA'S POOR OUTLOOK. A Chinese is a slave in the land of his birth. The Chinese Government cannot even borrow money from wherever it wants, or try a European criminal who has killed a Chinese. European imperialism has become all the more formidable in China because it is buttressed by the new imperialism of Japan.

Let us hope that before long Russian, British, Japanese, French and Portuguese possessions in China may be things of the past; and China may take her rightful place among the free and unfettered nations of the world.

But the freedom of China and the scrapping of a few Japanese battle-ships will not settle the Oriental issue. The crux of the Oriental problem is not China, but India.

India is the central pillar of the bridge of the Orient; and India is the "pivot of the British empire." And India's biggest issue in the Orient is its universal fight against the British empire in the East.

If China is to remain permanently free, if American-Japanese friendship is to be based on sound and permanent basis, and America's trade with Asia is to be developed unhampered, then the death-knell of the British Empire must be sounded in the East. And this can only be brought about by the independence of India.

It is not necessary here to enter into a discussion of India's wrongs, but suffice it to say that if America had a just cause for revolution in 1776, India has a much more just cause for a greater revolution in 1921.

The Orient is observing with keen interest England's frantic attempts at Washington to make America underwrite her ill-gotten and tottering empire in the East. Students of history and British

"The Orient Is Observing With Keen Interest England's Frantic Efforts to Make America Underwrite Her Ill-Gotten Gains."

diplomacy at once realize in these attempts another snare for the destruction of America's growing trade and growing financial influence in the world. In the past few centuries England has destroyed her trade rivals—Spain, Portugal, Holland, France and Germany. The next blow she is aiming at her most powerful trade rival of today—America.

Such are indeed the complications of the currents of international affairs that what helps British imperialism hurts the very vitals of the most sacred things in American life and tradition. And such is indeed the God-given destiny of America that she can gain both morally and materially by siding only with truth, with justice and with liberty.

The world has recently witnessed the tragic fall of Woodrow Wilson, but we people of the Orient still hold fast to the paramount American principle he promulgated on behalf of the American people on January 22, 1917, in the United States Senate, and hold America responsible for it. He said:

"I am proposing that the nations should with one accord adopt the doctrine of President Monroe as the doctrine of the world; that no nation should seek to extend its policy over any other nation or people, but that every people should be left free to determine its own policies, its own way of development, unhindered, unthreatened, unafraid, the little along with the great and powerful."

We demand the fulfillment of this solemn pledge at the Washington conference. Not only China, but the entire Orient must be unconditionally freed.